the Ministry that one-size-fits-all approach to power subsidy is not viable and it should be left to each State's electricity regulator and the forum of regulators should be allowed to evolve a consensus on the issue;

(b) whether the Commission is also against Government's view of doing away with advance against depreciation for meeting loan repayment; and

(c) if so, the details of other issues raised by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and to what extent the Ministry has agreed to their directives?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Electricity Act, 2003 requires Central Government to prepare the National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is required to advise the Central Government regarding these policies. CERC communicated their advice to Ministry of Power regarding these Policies indicated their views on various issues, including the following

(i) Advance against depreciation should be permitted.

(ii) Instead of laying down a uniform methodology for computation of cross-subsidy surcharge, the matter should be left to the State Eelctricity Regulatory Commissions to determine after discussions in the Forum of Regulators.

Most of the suggestions given by CERC for Tariff Policy and National Electricity Policy were agreed to and incorporated in the Policies. These Policies were finalised after considering views of the CERC, CEA the State Governments and other stake-holders.

Electrification of villages in Uttaranchal

1440. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Uttaranchal deprived of the facilities of electricity as on date;

(b) the number of villages to be targeted to be electrified under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification plan and the target achieved so far in this regard;

(c) the number of villages targeted to be electrified in Uttaranchal during 2006-07 and the next year; and

(d) the arrangements made by Government to provide electricity to all villages in the State and by when?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There are 1227 un-electrified villages in Uttaranchal as on 31.5.2006.*

(b) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) aims at electrifying all the un-electrified villages, except villages covered under the programme of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) by 2009. Uttranchal Power Corporation Ltd. has so far reported wiring of 107 villages under RGGVY.

(c) 320 un-electrified villages are targeted to be electrified during 2006-07 and the balance all the un-electrified villages in Uttaranchal are expected to be electrified by 2009, under RGGVY

(d) RGGVY envisages providing access to electricity to all the rural households, by way of electrification of all the villages in the country, including Uttaranchal, by 2009. For attainment of goal of RGGVY, the Central Government has taken following steps:

* To augment the implementation capacities of State Electricity Boards/ Power Utilities, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (RECL) has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with CPSUs like National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

* For effective implementation of the project, REC has developed a framework covering guidelines for formulation of projects, bidding procedures for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, franchising under RGGVY's and also updation of existing REC's technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.

* Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are prepared district-wise for the purpose of cohesiveness and better implementation of projects.

* For speedier and effective implementation, the projects are executed on a turnkey basis.

States have been advised to set-up district committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification works.

The Government of India and also REC, the nodal agency for RGGVY, conduct frequent review meetings with the concerned State Governments and implementing agencies for expeditious implementation of the scheme as per agreed schedules.

*Source: As per progress report published by CEA, out of 15761 inhabited villages (2001 Census) 14534 villages have been electrified in Uttaranchal as on 31.5.2006.

Power projects based on coal

1441. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for development of Power Projects based on indigenous coal and imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the development work of Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd. for imported coal project at Mundra (Gujarat) has been taken up; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Identification of new sites and their execution is an ongoing exercise. At present, over 19,100 MW coal based capacity is under execution. Of this, only one project of 250 MW has been conceived to be developed using imported coal as fuel. Further, Ministry of Power through Power Finance Corporation is facilitating development of a few Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) of 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route through shell companies. Central Electricity Authority has identified seven suitable sites for development of such projects, of which three are pithead and remaining four are coastal sites and projects located here have been envisaged to use imported coal as fuel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL), the shell company for the Ultra Mega Project at Mundra in Gujarat, is tying up various inputs associated with development of the project. The timeline